



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 31, 2008

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Corn Acreage Declines as Soybeans Make a Comeback

According to the results of the March Plantings Intentions Survey released Monday by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, farmers in Maryland, Delaware, and across the U.S. will shift acreage away from corn and back into soybeans this year. Corn acreage is down from last year as favorable prices for other crops, higher input costs for corn, and crop rotation considerations are motivating some farmers to plant fewer acres to corn. Grain producers in both Maryland and Delaware say they will shift approximately 50,000 acres that were planted in corn in 2007 to soybeans for 2008. Maryland and Delaware producers have also planted the largest wheat crop in years.

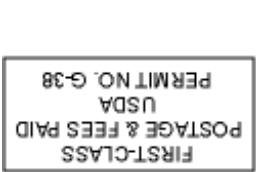
Maryland: Maryland grain producers report that they will plant 450,000 acres of soybeans this year, up 50,000 acres from 400,000 acres planted in 2007. There will be a corresponding drop in corn acres planted. Producers say they will plant 490,000 acres of corn, as compared with 540,000 acres planted last year, but the same as 2006. In addition, producers report that they planted an estimated 255,000 acres of winter wheat last fall, up 35,000 acres from 220,000 acres planted this year. This is the largest acreage of winter wheat planted since 2000 when 220,000 acres were also planted. Barley acreage is up 3,000 acres from last year, to 48,000 acres. Growers also expect to harvest hay from 205,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from 2007 but the same as 2006.

Delaware: Likewise, grain producers in Delaware are expected to plant more soybeans in 2008. Producers report that they plan to plant an estimated 200,000 acres of soybeans this year, as compared to 150,000 acres planted in 2007. This is the largest acreage planted in soybeans since 2004, when 210,000 acres of soybeans were planted. An estimated 145,000 acres of corn are expected to be planted in 2008, down 50,000 acres from the 195,000 acres planted in 2007. This will be the smallest corn acreage since 1989 when 140,000 acres of corn were planted. Along with the increase in soybean acreage, Delaware farmers planted more small grains last fall, including an estimated 80,000 acres of winter wheat and 27,000 acres of barley. This compares with 57,000 acres of winter wheat and 21,000 acres of barley planted the previous year. This is the largest planting of winter wheat in Delaware since 1996, when 80,000 acres were also planted. Hay is expected to be harvested from 15,000 acres, unchanged from 2007.

United States: Corn growers intend to plant 86.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2008, down 8 percent from last year when corn planted area was the highest since 1944. Despite the decrease, corn acreage is expected to remain at historically high levels as the corn price outlook remains strong due in part to the continued expansion in ethanol production.

Soybean producers intend to plant 74.8 million acres in 2008, up 18 percent from last year, but 1 percent below the record high acreage in 2006. Acreage increases are expected in all States, except in West Virginia, which is unchanged from last year. The largest increases are expected in Iowa and Nebraska, up 1.25 million acres and 1.20 million acres from 2007, respectively. Increases of at least 800,000 acres are also expected in Indiana, Minnesota, and South Dakota. If realized, the planted acreage in Kansas, New York, and Pennsylvania will be the largest on record.

All wheat planted area is estimated at 63.8 million acres, up 6 percent from 2007. The 2008 winter wheat planted area, at 46.8 million acres, is 4 percent above last year and up slightly from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 32.5 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 10.7 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.63 million acres are White Winter. Area planted to other spring wheat for 2008 is expected to total 14.3 million acres, up 8 percent from 2007. Of this total, about 13.6 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. The intended Durum planted area for 2008 is 2.63 million acres, up 22 percent from the previous year.



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¹ Intended plantings in 2008 as indicated by reports from farmers.

ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION 2007 AND 2008									
Commodity	Unit	Planted		Harvested		Average Yield		Production	
		2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
Maryland		1,000 Acres				1,000			
Corn ¹	ACR	540	490	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn, Grain	BU	----	----	455	----	103	----	46,865	----
Corn, Silage	TON	----	----	75	----	12	----	900	----
Soybeans ¹	BU	400	450	380	----	27	----	10,260	----
Wheat, Winter	BU	220	255	170	----	68	----	11,560	----
Barley ¹	BU	45	48	34	----	84	----	2,856	----
Hay, All	TON	----	----	215	205	2.15	----	462	----
Hay, Alfalfa	TON	----	----	40	----	2.80	----	112	----
Hay, Other	TON	----	----	175	----	2.00	----	350	----
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	33,000	----
Peaches	TON	----	----	----	----	----	----	3.3	----
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	3.0	----	3.0	----	320	----	960	----
Delaware									
Corn ¹	ACR	195	145	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn, Grain	BU	----	----	185	----	97	----	17,945	----
Corn, Silage	TON	----	----	7	----	10	----	70	----
Soybeans ¹	BU	150	200	145	----	24	----	3,480	----
Wheat, Winter	BU	57	80	55	----	68	----	3,740	----
Barley ¹	BU	21	27	19	----	78	----	1,482	----
Hay, All	TON	----	----	15	15	1.93	----	29	----
Hay, Alfalfa	TON	----	----	5	----	2.20	----	11	----
Hay, Other	TON	----	----	10	----	1.8	----	18	----
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	2.0	----	2.0	----	260	----	520	----
United States								1,000,000	
Corn ¹	ACR	93,600	86,014	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn, Grain	BU	----	----	86,542	----	151	----	13,074	----
Corn, Silage	TON	----	----	6,071	----	18	----	106	----
Soybeans ¹	BU	63,631	74,793	62,820	----	41	----	2,585	----
Wheat, Winter	BU	44,987	46,840	35,952	----	42	----	1,516	----
Barley ¹	BU	4,020	4,147	3,508	----	60	----	212	----
All Hay	TON	----	----	61,625	60,583	2.44	----	150	----
Hay, Alfalfa	TON	----	----	21,670	----	3.35	----	73	----
Hay, Other	TON	----	----	39,955	----	1.95	----	78	----
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	9,255	----
Peaches	TON	----	----	----	----	----	----	1.03	----
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	53.7	----	50.4	----	335	----	16.9	----